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WAR FOOD ADMINISTRATION  
Office of Distribution  
Marketing Reports Division  
821 Market Street - Room 700  
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Western Region

FOR ADMINISTRATIVE USE

HIGHLIGHTS FROM MARKET NEWS REVIEWS  
Week Ending May 12, 1944

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FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Onions - Early estimates on probable production of late spring onions indicate 1,167,000 sacks (100 lbs. each) 378,000 more than for 1943 and 213,000 more than the 1932-41 average with California contributing 451,000 sacks, Louisiana 60,000, Texas 580,000, and Georgia 76,000. Estimates for the Texas early spring onion crop show 2,683,000 sacks for that state.

A reminder...the War Food Order 77 covering onions was terminated, effective April 26, 1944.

Early onions shipped out of Texas to date since the start of its new season now total 4,365 cars (300, 100 lb. sacks per car).

Potatoes - This week's summary on the new potato deal shows that the Kern County, California, shipments now total 1,998 cars compared to 2,636 cars for 1943 by the same date. The f.o.b. price on May 12, 1943 for U. S. #1 in 100 lb. sacks was \$2.65. Today the price is quoted as mostly \$3.50 per hundred.

Carrots - The f.o.b. prices on carrots at Brawley in 1943 as of May 12th was \$2.50 per crate of 6 doz. bunches. This year, Friday was a shippers' holiday and sales at Brawley were too few to quote. Sales were also too few at Phoenix to quote. On the 12th, however, the f.o.b. price was quoted as mostly \$2.25 per crate.

Total shipments of topped and bunched carrots from Arizona and Imperial Valley this week are 584 cars. The U. S. total this week 786 for 1944 and 727 cars in 1943 for the same week.

Prunes - Out of the 1943 pack of 432 million pounds of dried prunes, packers have been authorized by WFA to release an additional 12 million pounds of set aside prunes for civilian use. This release authorized on May 10th makes a total of 248 million pounds of the 1943 crop released for civilian consumption.

GRAIN PRODUCTS

Wheat - From Canada we have reassuring data on the 1944 wheat acreage in that Nation's wheat growing sections. Intended 1944 acreage there is 21,325,000 acres which is approximately 20 percent above the 1943 acreage and approximately the same as that for 1942. Estimates for 1944 winter wheat production in the United States are now set at 399,365,000 cwt. which is approximately 24 percent greater than last year crop. Meanwhile in the United States demand for cash wheat is definitely urgent.

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Corn - The recent WFA program set up to assist corn growers in shelling and marketing their corn holdings has increased receipts of corn at terminal markets. The increase however, was not available to cover the needs of the feed manufacturers and feeders as the supplies were earmarked for wet processors. There appeared to be no offerings available in the Pacific Coast states although many buyers were in the market.

Natural Feeds - Weather reports from the inter-mountain states indicate unfavorable growing conditions for feed, however, in the Pacific Northwest both moisture and temperature have, during the past week, improved and wild feed is now making good progress.

#### DAIRY AND POULTRY PRODUCTS

Butter - Improved weather conditions in the midwestern butter producing states has improved pastures and butter production has increased. The market in general, however, has tightened in anticipation of the effect of the butter "set-aside". This is in contrast to the beginning of the week following the removal of ration points from most meats. Consumer demand, somewhat reduced, has remained in excess of supplies.

Eggs - Most markets on eggs reflected, toward the end of the week, an unsettled to weaker trend. Some of the markets particularly on the Pacific Coast were again experiencing accumulation of stocks.

There was practically no change in wholesale prices except in Portland where there was a 1/2 cent drop on large grade A eggs.

Poultry - Arrivals of live poultry on the markets, this week, were generally ample to heavier than consumer demand. At the same time consumer demand for dressed poultry was slower than early in the week. Both reflected the unsteady egg market and point free meats.

#### LIVESTOCK AND MEATS

Hogs - The WFA temporary emergency extension on price support program includes good to choice butcher hogs weighing 180-270 pounds and is effective 12:01 May 15, 1944. The price is \$13.75 per cwt with appropriate differentials from the Chicago market. This support announcement is expected to accomplish two objectives; one being to encourage a better finish on lighter weight hogs and the second to relieve the present congested conditions in the principal markets. Receipts of hogs in the 12 principal markets this week totaled 558,000 head which is 13 percent above last week and 46 percent above the same week a year ago.

Fresh Meats - The lifting of the meat ration points last week resulted in fast and depleting demand on available supplies of all meats.

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